In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.121(c), Attachment A provides marked up versions of the Claims illustrating the newly introduced changes.

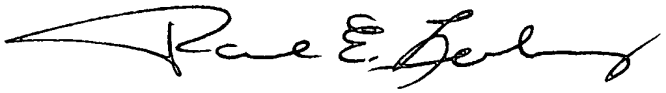
REMARKS

The above amendment amends the Specification to correct errors and improve clarity.

Claims 1-18 were pending in the above-identified application and are amended as indicated above. These Claims are amended herewith to clarify the scope of the claims and to correct minor errors of form found in the Claims filed in the EPO. In particular, a rationale for certain substantive amendment of Claim 1 is described in the Reply to the Written Opinion filed on 24 September 2001, attached hereto as Attachment B and incorporated herein by reference.

In summary, Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. This response amends Claims 1, 4, 6, 10-13, and 15, and adds Claims 19 and 20. For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all claims. Should the Examiner have any questions concerning this response, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 617-951-7000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment A

1. (Amended) A method for the selection of at least one member of a number of specifically interacting molecules from libraries, said method comprising [as the first step involving the contact of said interacting molecules]:

(a) contacting a first molecule with a second molecule affixed to a magnetic particle under conditions that allow a specific interaction between said first and second molecule to occur;

[and further the steps of:]

(b) subjecting the product obtained in step (a) to at least one washing step;

(c) determining whether a specific interaction between said first and second molecule had occurred; and, if said specific interaction had occurred,

(d) providing said first and/or second molecule selected by steps (a) to (c), wherein steps (a), (b) and (c) are carried out in parallel in [(a) container(s)] one or more containers, preferably representing an arrayed form, [e.g. in (a) microtiter plate(s),] using an automated device comprising a magnetic particle processor.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 2 [or 3], wherein said first [and/or second] molecule is selected from the group consisting of [a] cDNA expression products, [and/or a (poly)]peptides, polypeptides, [and/or a] nucleic acids, [and/or a] lipids, [and/or a] sugars, [and/or a] steroids, [and/or a] and hybrids of said molecules and said second molecule is selected from the group consisting of cDNA expression products, peptides, polypeptides, and nucleic acids, lipids, sugars, steroids, and hybrids of said molecules.

6. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 5], wherein said first molecule is a [(poly)]peptide or polypetide presented on the surface of organisms [(e.g. phage, viruses, bacteria, eukaryotic cells)] and/or organelles [(e.g. ribosome)] and/or soluble molecules [(e.g. nucleic acids, protein-nucleic acid hybrids)] and wherein the method further comprises after step (b) and prior to step (c) the step of:

(b') amplifying a [(poly)]peptide or polypetide specifically interacting with said second molecule,

wherein step (b') is carried out in [(a) container(s)] one or more containers preferably representing an arrayed form[, e.g. in (a) microtiter plate(s)].

10. (Amen[illegible] The method of [any one of] claim[s] [illegible] 9], wherein said number of specifically interacting molecules is a pair of interacting molecules.

11. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 9], wherein said number of specifically interacting molecules are three or more interacting molecules.

12. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 11], further comprising the step of characterizing said first and/or second molecule and/or the corresponding genetic information.

13. (Amended) The method of [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 12], wherein said second molecule target is affixed to said magnetic particle via an affinity tag [(e.g. a metal-chelating tag, an epitope tag, an enzyme binding domain, calmodulin, biotin, Strep-tag, protein A, protein G or protein L)] and/or unspecific adsorption [(e.g. plastic surface)] and/or covalent binding [(e.g. via functional groups such as NH_2-, COOH-, SH-groups)].

15. (Amended) The method of [any one of claims] claim 1 [to 14], wherein step (c) is effected by immunological means.

18. (Amended) A method for the production of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the steps of the method of [any one of claims 1 to 17] claim 1 and further the step of formulating said first and/or second molecule selected and/or characterized by the method of [any one of claims 1 to 17] claim 1 or a functionally and/or structurally equivalent derivative thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable form.

19. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more containers comprise one or more microtiter plates.

20. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein said one or more containers comprise one or more microtiter plates.

Attachment B

{Copy of the Response to the Written Opinion filed in the EPO}